

## CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method for a user to locate, select, purchase and receive delivery of small unit research information consisting of:

providing access through a user's interface device to a research item information system;

managing the delivery to said user's interface device of multiple components including a research item locator component for allowing said user to locate small unit research information, a transaction component to allow purchase of said small unit research information; and a delivery component to allow said user to acquire or otherwise receive said small unit research information;

having said delivery to said user's interface device of multiple components including said research item locator component, said transaction component and said delivery component occur via electronic and/or communications channel or channels;

requiring said user to perform activity within said interface device to identify said small unit research information;

managing the delivery to said user's interface device of one or more results to said user activity to identify small unit research information;

requiring said user to perform activity to make selection from said results to said user activity to identify small unit research information;

permitting said user to make additions, alterations, or deletions to said selection from said results to said user activity to identify small unit research information;

permitting said user to purchase or otherwise acquire one or more of said selection from said results to said user activity to identify small unit research information via said transaction component;

managing the delivery of said purchase or otherwise acquire one or more of said selection from said results to said user activity to identify small unit research information via said delivery component;

allowing for each said user to be uniquely identified;

creating stored user activity event based on said activity performed by said uniquely identified said users; and

allowing said user to repeat the process.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said electronics and/or communications channel or channels comprises information technology networks and sources including local area networks, Internet, Intranet, Extranets and local equipment; and communication networks and sources including digital and analog over-the-air transmissions, wireless transmissions, cable transmissions, and satellite transmissions.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said interface device comprises all connected, interrelated or otherwise associated equipment or devices that allow said user to experience and/or interact with other available, authorized and/or otherwise accessible resources within said electronic and/or communications channel or channels.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said research item information system resides within components containing an information technology processor and associated components that is accessed via said electronic and/or communications channel or channels.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said a research item information system resides within components containing an information technology processor and associated components that is local to said user and not accessed via said electronic and/or communications channel or channels.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said small unit research information comprises information of singular subject matter extracted or otherwise existing within a larger body of information but by itself is not sufficient to offer the necessary detail to fully understand the body of work from which it was drawn.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said small unit research information comprises information available in a plurality of formats including text, graphics, video, interactive communication, animation, audio; over-the-air transmission such as television and radio; tactile materials, olfactory materials, and other information formats.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said small unit research information comprises information located and accessible through said electronics and/or communications channel or channels.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein said small unit research information comprise:

materials used by one party in the process of educating, understanding, gaining knowledge, comprehending, and/or informing others;

materials supplied by another party including that developed by another party, that supplied but not developed by another party, and that referenced or linked by another party to other sources; and

materials that reside internally within components associated with said research item information system or reside externally to said research item information system and accessible via said electronic and/or communications channel or channels.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein one or more of components of said multiple components may exist separately or may exist concurrently within said user's interface device.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein said research item locator component allows said user to search or otherwise locate said small unit research information within components associated with said research item information system or components that are external to said research item information system.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein said component to allow purchase of said small unit research information provides access to elements necessary for processing a purchase transaction.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said elements necessary for processing a purchase transaction includes elements that are internal or otherwise directly associated with said research item information system.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein said elements necessary for processing a purchase transaction includes elements that are external or otherwise not directly associated with said research item information system and are accessible via said electronic and/or communications channel or channels.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein said component to allow purchase of said small unit research information provides access to elements necessary for processing a purchase transaction includes elements to allow purchase transactions using micropayment transactions.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein said component to allow delivery of said small unit research information allows for electronic delivery and non-electronic delivery.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein said component to allow delivery of said small unit research information manages delivery of said small unit research information from it said electronics and/or communications channel or channels location.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein said delivery to said user's interface device of multiple components can occur with each components being delivered via the same said electronics and/or communications channel or channels or with different components being delivered via different said electronics and/or communications channel or channels.

19 The method of claim 1, wherein said user consists of a single individual or a group of individuals.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein said group of individuals may access said research item information system from more than one and different said interface devices connected to said electronics and/or communications channel or channels.

21. A research item information system, comprising:

research item locator system for locating, selecting and otherwise providing information related to small unit research information;

transaction system for handling purchase of selected said small unit research information;

user activity storage system for tracking and storing the activity of a user within said research item information system;

research item delivery system for providing means of delivery of purchased said small unit research information;

means for managing the delivery to a user's interface device and via electronic and/or communications channel or channels, of one or more components for

locating, selecting, purchasing and receiving delivery of said small unit research information;

means for designating stored user activity event upon said user activity related to said small unit research information;

storage areas for retaining information related to small unit research information;

storage areas for retaining said stored user activity event;

means for allowing modification to said stored user activity event; and

means for associating with said user said activities performed by said user within said research item information system system.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein said electronic and/or communications channel or channels comprise information technology networks and sources including local area networks, Internet, Intranet, Extranets and local equipment; and communication networks and sources including digital and analog over-the-air transmissions, wireless transmissions, cable transmissions, and satellite transmissions.

23. The system in Claim 21, wherein said research item information system resides within components containing an information technology processor and associated components.



24. The system in Claim 21, wherein said components containing an information technology processor and associated components are accessed via said electronic and/or communications channel or channels.

25. The system in Claim 21, wherein said components containing an information technology processor and associated components are local to said user and not accessed via said electronic and/or communications channel or channels.

26. The system of claim 21, wherein said small unit research information comprises:

information of singular subject matter extracted or otherwise existing within a larger body of information but by itself is not sufficient to offer the necessary detail to fully understand the body of work from which it was drawn; and

information available in a plurality of formats including text, graphics, video, interactive communication, animation, audio; over-the-air transmission such as television and radio; tactile materials, olfactory materials, and other information formats.

27. The system of claim 21, wherein said small unit research information comprises information located and accessible through said electronics and/or communications channel or channels.

28. The system of claim 21, wherein said small unit research information comprise:

materials used by one party in the process of educating, understanding, gaining knowledge, comprehending, and/or informing others;

materials supplied by another party including that developed by another party, that supplied but not developed by another party, and that referenced or linked by another party to other sources; and

materials that reside internally within components associated with said research item information system or reside externally to said research item information system and accessible via said electronic and/or communications channel or channels.

29. The system of claim 21, wherein said managing the delivery to a user's interface device and via electronic and/or communications channel or channels, of one or more components may allow said components to exist separately or may exist concurrently within said user's interface device.

30. The system of claim 21, wherein said interface device comprises all connected, interrelated or otherwise associated equipment or devices that allow said user to experience and/or interact with other available, authorized and/or otherwise accessible resources within said electronic and/or communication channel or channels.

31. The system in claim 21, wherein transaction system provides access to elements necessary for said handling purchase of selected said small unit research information.

32. The system in claim 31, wherein said elements necessary for said handling purchase of selected said small unit research information includes elements that are internal for otherwise directly associated with said research information system.

33. The system of claim 31, wherein said elements necessary for said handling purchase includes elements that are external or otherwise not directly associated with said research item information system and are accessible via said electronic and/or communications channel or channels.

34. The system of claim 21, wherein said transaction system contains a small payment transaction mechanism for assisting in purchase of small unit research information.

35. The system of claim 34, wherein said transaction system contains a small payment transaction mechanism for assisting in purchase of small unit research information includes means for allowing micropayment transactions.

36. The system of claim 21, wherein said storage areas for retaining information related to small unit research information contains information, references or characteristics related to said small unit research information.

37. The system of claim 21, wherein said research item delivery system of purchased said small unit research information allows for electronic delivery via said electronic and/or communications channel or channels of said purchased small unit research information.

38. The system of claim 21, wherein said research item delivery system of purchased said small unit research information allows for non-electronic delivery of said purchased small unit research information.

39. The method of Claim 21, wherein said user consists of a single individual or a group of individuals.

40. The method of claim 39, wherein said group of individuals may concurrently access said assessment delivery and management system from more than one and different said interface devices connected to said electronics and/or communications channel or channels.